



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

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In this issue:

- » **IAA has full schedule planned for follow-up to Blueprint Release**
- » **IAA Conducts Surveys on Afterschool and Afterschool Programs**
- » **Technical Assistance: Effective Grant Writing**
- » **Findings from an Independent Evaluation of a Major After-School Initiative**
- » **Enrich Students' Worldview through a World of Difference Workshop**
- » **Be a Young Leader: Global Youth Service Day**
- » **Check Out Our Expanded Quality Resource Directory Online**
- » **IAA Provides Afterschool Tools**
- » **Check out the list of new and current 21st Century Community Learning Centers**
- » **Iowa Hall of Pride Offers Free Admission to All K-12 Students**
- » **Upcoming Professional Development, Events and Funding Opportunities**

IAA has full schedule planned for follow-up to Blueprint Release

As many Iowa Afterschool Alliance members know, the IAA recently released *Iowa's Blueprint for Afterschool: Five Strategies for Ensuring Access to Affordable High-Quality Afterschool in Iowa for Children and Youth Ages 5-17*. The IAA does not intend to wait around for policies to change – we need to get moving now! IAA have been invited to present to a number of organizations and groups over the next couple of months and wanted to share our schedule with our supporters. Here is a list of upcoming IAA events.

Iowa League of Cities, Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 11

The IAA recently wrote an article on *Iowa's Blueprint for Afterschool* that was featured in the last edition of the Iowa League of Cities' bi-monthly members' magazine. The Iowa League of Cities have invited IAA to make a presentation that will provide more context to the discussion of local policy- and decision-makers' roles in implementing the IAA's "Five Strategies for Ensuring Access to Affordable High-Quality Afterschool in Iowa for Children and Youth Ages 5-17." For more information on the Iowa League of Cities, please visit www.iowaleague.org.

Afterschool Network Leads Meeting, Washington D.C., October 1-3

Each year state afterschool network leads come together to share best practices and network successes. The meeting brings together two representatives from each state network for an intense day of professional development focused on building the unique

skills and knowledge needed by those who work with statewide afterschool networks day-to-day. For more information on the National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks, please visit www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net.



Lights On! Afterschool celebrations nationwide, October 16

This year the Iowa Afterschool Alliance will be in Cedar Rapids to support the Cedar Rapids Afterschool Alliance in celebrating Lights On! Afterschool in their community. Especially poignant this year is the special achievements of afterschool in Cedar Rapids following the devastating floods of 2008.

Nationally, the Empire State Building will be lit up in yellow again this year for the 9th annual **Lights On Afterschool** on October 16, 2008. One million Americans will participate in 7,500+ Lights On Afterschool celebrations across the nation. [Register today](#) to make sure you get your free Lights On Afterschool promotional posters, event planning emails and updates and to be included on our online list of events and raffle drawings. New [Lights On items](#) are now available to order for your events - get a jump on the shipping rush and order today.

This year will also be a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers! We encourage you to celebrate this 10th birthday in your plans.

For more information on Lights On! Afterschool, please visit our website at www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.html.

Iowa Community Education Association Fall Conference, Ankeny, Iowa, October 24

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance will be presenting two sessions at the ICEA Fall Conference:
» “Presenting Iowa’s Blueprint for Afterschool and Indicators of Quality Afterschool Programming in Iowa”

Keli Tallman, ISU Extension 4H Youth Development Specialist

Michelle Rich, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

» “Exploring Changing Iowa Demographics and Legislative Prospects”

Erin Drinnin and Brooke Findley, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

For more information on ICEA and the Fall Conference, please visit www.iowacommunityeducation.org.

63rd Annual Iowa Association of School Boards Convention, Des Moines, November 21

The IAA will represent afterschool at a “Meet the Experts” roundtable discussion on the second day of the IASB’s annual convention. For more information on the Iowa Association of School Boards, please visit www.ia-sb.org.

IAA Conducts Surveys on Afterschool and Afterschool Programs

Watch out for an IAA survey in your mail! The IAA is asking people like you across the state to complete a short survey. The IAA will use the survey results to learn more about how Iowans feel about the need for, access to, quality of, and funding for afterschool programs. Once surveys have been tallied, the results will be posted at www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org.



State Public Policy Group has also been contracted by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to administer surveys to establish baseline data about afterschool around the state. SPPG will conduct two surveys. One will collect input from school administrators from each district around the state and the other will collect input from parents in schools where there is an active 21st Century Community Learning Center program. Surveys will garner information about three key areas: affordability, access, and quality.

Technical Assistance: Effective Grant Writing

This month, we are focusing on grant writing, given the timeliness of the release of the before and after school grants by the Iowa Department of Education. See the following link for more details on these grants: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1482/526/>

As you know, grant writing can be a time-consuming and frustrating process. We have included some helpful hints for you to keep in mind throughout grant writing endeavors.

When you respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) or write for a grant, take these things into consideration:

- » **Read and Follow Instructions Carefully** – It may seem tedious to follow some instructions, but they are there to make the process fair and consistent. Be sure to review the instructions again after you have completed your proposal to ensure that all instructions have been followed.
- » **Give Yourself Plenty of Time** – Start before you think you need to start. Give yourself plenty of time to write, revise, and have other people review the application before submission. If you get stuck during the writing process, take a break and come back to it in a few hours.
- » **If Provided, Pay Attention to Scoring Guides** – Some RFPs provide a scoring guide that notes how your application will be rated. Pay special attention to areas with potential for many points.
- » **Answer Each Question** – Answer each question as thoroughly as possible, while still following any word or page limit guidelines. If a question does not apply to your particular program, explain why it does not apply.
- » **Ask For Help** – RFPs include contact information of staff members who are able to answer your questions. People in your agency or organization will also be helpful in writing about your program. Ask several people within your organization to review your proposal before you send it. They may have helpful tips on how to incorporate information about your program and may catch grammatical or spelling errors.
- » **Submit On Time** – Give yourself enough time to submit your application in the mode requested by those issuing the RFP. Ask for verification that they have received your application.

Findings from an Independent Evaluation of a Major After-School Initiative

The report, “Advancing Achievement: Findings from an Independent Evaluation of a Major After-School Initiative” presents findings from independent research on Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), an eight-year, \$58 million effort to improve the educational performance of low-achieving students in five California cities. The report demonstrates the relationship between high-quality literacy programming and academic gains. In addition it informs the afterschool field of the potential role of quality programs in the ongoing drive to improve academic achievement. Some of the findings include that children enrolled in the CORAL programs have a high levels of participation and a strong sense of engagement. Higher levels of engagement in CORAL are also related to positive changes in children’s attitudes toward reading as well as attitudes and behaviors in school. To read the full report, [click here](#).



Enrich Students’ Worldview through a World of Difference Workshop

Iowa has a wealth of cultural artists and experts whose knowledge comes from first-hand experiences in native lands, adopted homes and personal passions. Many of these people work with *World of Difference*, which is an Iowa-based non-profit organization that collaborates with schools, community groups and businesses to create experiences that immerse youth into new concepts and thought processes.

This past year, the organization provided 600 workshops to schools and other student groups. They currently have 100 Cultural Ambassadors who represent more than 30 cultures – and are adding new programs all the time. World of Difference helps teachers expand the depth of just about any course subject. They offer unique, hands-on, interactive workshops designed to make any curriculum – *whether geography, science, social studies, food and health, art, math or language arts* - come to life.

Local PTAs may wish to enrich their students’ studies by sponsoring a workshop or an all-day, school-wide cultural day. To learn more, go to: <http://www.worldofdifference.us/>

Be a Young Leader: Global Youth Service Day

Belong to the millions of young people around the world planning and carrying out service projects globally between now and April 24 and 26, 2009. Global Youth Service Day mobilizes youth as leaders to identify and address the needs of our communities through service and learning supports youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement educates the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.



Young Iowans have the potential to change the world; let's all get together on Global Youth Service Day to change it for the better. Check out the [GYSD website](#) for:

- [Planning Tool Kit](#)
- [Posters](#)
- [Curriculum Guide](#)
- [Service Learning Modules](#)
- [Tip Sheets](#)

Or contact Martha McCormick at iceadirector@mchsi.com for information or to join one of five regional planning teams.

Check Out Our Expanded Quality Resource Directory Online

Visit our [website](#) for a number of resources on quality afterschool programming, including professional development, administration, and curriculum. The resource directory on the IAA website is intended to be used by before and after school programs to ensure children and youth are provided the best afterschool opportunities. Feel free to give us your feedback. Send all suggestions to Michelle Rich at mrich@sppg.com.

IAA Provides Afterschool Tools

The Quality Workgroup has been making significant progress toward recommendations to the IAA Board on quality standards and indicators specific to afterschool in Iowa. The IAA staff is already planning exciting uses for the quality standards and indicators being narrowed by the workgroup. The IAA plans to publish two unique tools for Iowa's quality afterschool standards: a "policy-makers' guide" and a "program providers' guide." Both will be designed for its respective audience. The policy-makers' guide will focus on why quality in afterschool programs is so important and how this may translate to better educational and social outcomes for children and youth in Iowa. The program providers' guide will serve as a self-assessment tool to ensure that the program provided meets Iowa's standards of quality. The IAA expects to have these tools finalized by October 2008. For more information on these tools, or the IAA's work on establishing standards for quality afterschool programs, please contact Michelle Rich at 515-243-2000 or mrich@sppg.com.

Check out the list of new and existing 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Here is a list of 21st CCLC grantees from Cohort I through IV (2008-2013)



School District	Site
Allamakee Community School District	East Elementary
Allamakee Community School District	West Elementary
Allamakee Community School District	Waterville Elementary
Blackhawk Boys and Girls Club	Poyner Elementary
Clinton Community School District	Jefferson Elementary
Clinton Community School District	Bluff Elementary
Clinton Community School District	Eagle Heights Elementary
Council Bluffs Community School District	Washington Elementary
Council Bluffs Community School District	Edison Elementary
Council Bluffs Community School District	Carter Lake Boys and Girls Club
Council Bluffs Community School District	Lakin Boys and Girls Club
Davenport Community School District	Lincoln Elementary
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	Callanan Middle
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	Goodrell Middle
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	Hoyt Middle
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	Meredith Middle
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	McCombs Middle
Des Moines Independent Community Schools	Weeks Middle
Fort Dodge Community School District	Butler Elementary
Iowa City Community School District	Roosevelt Elementary
Iowa City Community School District	Grant Wood Elementary
Iowa City Community School District	Hills Elementary
Linn County Extension	Johnson Elementary
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership	Irving Elementary
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership	Riverside Elementary
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership	Roosevelt Elementary
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership	Sacred Heart Elementary
Van Buren Community School District	Douds Enrichment Elementary
Van Buren Community School District	Stockport Enrichment Elementary
Van Buren Community School District	Keosauqua Jr/Sr High

Iowa Hall of Pride Offers Free Admission to All K-12 Students

The Iowa Hall of Pride is offering free admission to all K-12 students. The Iowa Hall of Pride is an interactive museum that tells the stories of Iowa's communities and their heroes. The three A's of Iowa- Academics, Athletics, and the Arts –come to life in the Iowa Hall of Pride. The Iowa Hall of Pride is located in downtown Des Moines on the Park Street across from Wells Fargo Arena. Adults can buy a ticket for \$5. For more information, go to their website www.iowahallofpride.com.



Upcoming Professional Development, Events and Funding Opportunities

Save the Date: Iowa School Age Care Alliance Leadership Day and Annual Fall Conference

The Iowa School Age Care Alliance (ISACA) is pleased to announce that this year's Leadership Day and Annual Fall Conference will be held on September 26 & 27 at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. This year's theme is "School Age Care: A Foundation for the Future." Please save this date on your calendar. ISACA anticipates it will be an amazing opportunity for school age care professionals!

Join Every Child Matters in Iowa's "Step Up for Kids Day" on September 16, 2008

The national office of Every Child Matters is working to organize an event in all 50 states to draw public attention to issues affecting America's children such as poverty, health care, juvenile incarceration, child abuse and after-school programs. The event will kick-off nationwide at the National Press Club in Washington DC on September 16th. Supporters and advocates, volunteers and kids will gather on the steps of state capitols to highlight the needs of children and families.

To find more information on this event or on Every Child Matters, Iowa, please visit <http://www.everychildmatters.org/iowa/index.html>.

Save the Date: East Polk Interagency Association Presents an Event Featuring Marc Prensky

The East Polk Interagency Association will be presenting an event on Friday, October 3 at the Southeast Polk High School Auditorium. The presentation titled, "Technology and its Changing Relationship to School and Work will feature Marc Prensky, an internationally acclaimed speaker, writer, educator and consultant in the critical areas of education and learning. He is the author of Digital Game-Based Learning, and Don't Bother Me Mom-I'm Learning. The event will feature two sessions as listed below:

- » Morning session: "Overcoming Our Digital Immigrant Accents-Understanding the Implications of Emerging Digital Native Behaviors for Education, Training, and Learning."

- » Afternoon session: “Education and Learning in the 21st Century-How, Why, and What we Need to do Differently.”

To register for this event, call Central Place (967-7806). Social work CEUs available.



Connecting the Pieces: Iowa Community Education Association Fall Conference

The Iowa Community Education Association Fall Conference will take place on Friday, October 24, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott hotel in Ankeny. A pre-conference reception will take place on Thursday, October 23 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Beth Robertson, Executive Director of the National Community Education Association will serve as the keynote speaker. Some of the sessions include:

- » Exploring Changing Iowa Demographics and Legislative Prospects, Presenter: Erin Drinnin, Iowa Afterschool Alliance/Carmine Boal
- » Sustaining 21st Century Grants, Presenter: Mary Hillman, Perry PACES Program

The Conference is presented in collaboration with Character Counts! In Iowa, Iowa Afterschool Alliance, Iowa Asset Building Coalition, Iowa PTA, Iowa State University and YMCA of Greater Des Moines.

To register online, go to www.iowacommunityeducation.org. For more information, please contact Martha McCormick, ICEA Executive Director at 515-979-3311.

Help Provided to Recover from Flooding in Cedar Rapids

If your youth program was affected by the flood, please contact Allison Roehrich of HACAP at aroehrich@hacap.org and share with her a list of supplies that you need help to get replaced. Allison has contacts with distributors-like Kaplan, and School Discount who are willing to offer very deep discounts to help groups recover.

Annual Pursuing Victory with Honor Summit

The 2008 Pursuing Victory With Honor Summit is presented by Iowa Health Systems and is a project of The University of Northern Iowa, CHARACTER COUNTS! In Iowa, The Iowa National Guard, and The Iowa Games and is supported by The University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Drake University, the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association.

Coaches, student athletes, community members and parents are all welcome at the 4th Annual Pursuing Victory With Honor Summit on October 8, 2008 at the University of Northern Iowa.

Featured Keynote Speakers:

- » John Naber, Olympic Gold Medalist, Swimming
- » Rick Nielsen, Founder, Blueprint for Life

Participants will attend two breakout sessions **of their choice on the following topics:**

- » Leadership & Decision Making
- » Becoming a Champion
- » Motivation
- » Stress & Wellness
- » Life After Sports
- » What Coaches Look For
- » Mental & Physical Preparation
- » Citizenship: Before, During and After Competition

To register, go to the following website: www.CharacterCountsInIowa.org



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